



MCIWEST-MCB CAMP PENDLETON

2017 Critical Days of Summer Newsletter

Week 3: 05 Jun - 09 Jun 2017



Curtail the Need to Speed



Speeding—traveling too fast for conditions or in excess of the posted speed limits—is a factor in almost one-third of all fatal crashes (safety.fhwa.dot.gov)

In 2012, there were 33,561 fatalities on our Nation's roadways, of which 10,219 were speeding-related. Speeding is a safety concern on all roads. Although much of the public concern about speeding has been focused on high-speed Interstates, nearly half of speeding-related fatalities occur on lower speed collector and local roads.

Speed Limits

California has a "Basic Speed Law." This law means that you may never drive faster than is safe for current conditions. For example, if you are driving 45 mph in a 55 mph speed zone during a dense fog, you could be cited for driving too fast for the conditions.

Regardless of the posted speed limit, your speed should depend on:

- The number and speed of other vehicles on the road.
- Whether the road surface is smooth, rough, graveled, wet, dry, wide, or narrow.
- Bicyclists or pedestrians walking on the road's edge or crossing the street.
- Whether it is raining, foggy, snowing, windy, or dusty.

Reduced Speeds

Around Children

When driving within 500 to 1,000 feet of a school while children are outside or crossing the street, the speed limit is 25 mph unless otherwise

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posted. Also, if the school grounds have no fence and children are outside, never drive faster than 25 mph. Some school zones may have speed limits as low as 15 mph. Always drive more carefully near schools, playgrounds, parks, and residential areas because children may suddenly dart into the street.

Also, many children have not yet developed the ability to judge speeds and distances well enough to cross streets safely when cars are moving fast.



Near schools, look for:

- Bicyclists and pedestrians.
- School safety patrols or school crossing guards. Be sure to obey their directions. For the crossing guard's safety, allow him or her to safely get to the side of the road before driving ahead.

- Stopped school buses and children crossing the street. Some school buses flash yellow lights when preparing to stop to let children off the bus. The yellow flashing lights warn you to slow down and prepare to stop. When the bus flashes red lights (located at the top front and back of the bus), you must stop from either direction until the children are safely across the street and the lights stop flashing. The law requires you remain stopped as long as the red lights are flashing (CVC §22454). If you fail to stop, you may be fined up to \$1,000 and your driving privilege could be suspended for one year. If the school bus is on the other side of a divided or multilane highway (two or more lanes in each direction), you do not need to stop.

Dangers of Speeding

Our goal is to save lives. Please join us in reminding all drivers to be alert, watch for speed limit signs and obey those signs. Drivers need to remember that there is a reason for posted speed limits. The roadways are a dangerous place and the speed limits are designed to protect everyone – drivers, passengers, pedestrians – everyone.

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Fatality data shows that 47 percent of speed-related fatalities occurred on roads posted at 50 mph or less, and more than 20 percent occurred on roads posted at 35 mph or less. Speeding is a habitual driver behavior. Although drivers name speeding as dangerous to their safety, most still speed.

Young Males – Increased Risk

Among drivers involved in fatal crashes, young males are the most likely to have been found speeding. Drivers of all ages may exceed posted speed limits, but the relative proportion of speeding-related crashes to all crashes decreases with increasing driver age.

Speeding and Impaired Driving: A Deadly Combination

Driving impaired and speeding is a deadly combination. Between midnight and 3 a.m., 75

percent of speeding drivers involved in fatal crashes had been drinking.

Effective Strategies

- AUTO ENFORCEMENT brings reductions in speed and crashes where it is implemented.
- HIGH-VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT blitzes accompanied by media campaigns informing the public about enforcement have proven effective at reducing impaired driving and increasing seat belt use.



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Links/ Resources

- Naval Safety Center
 - <http://www.public.navy.mil/NAVSAFECEN>
- National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) – Speeding
 - <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/speeding>
- CA Driver Handbook (laws)
 - https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/pubs/hdbk/driver_handbook_toc
- Federal Highway Administration – Office of Safety
 - <https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/>



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